

12-YEAR-OLD HAS POEM
PUBLISHED

HON. E de la GARZA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1996

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you and all of my House colleagues a poem written by Ericka L. Williams, the 12-year-old daughter of one of my constituents. Ericka's poem has been selected for inclusion in the latest edition of the Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans.

It is indeed quite an honor, and I want to take this occasion to congratulate her on this achievement.

LIFE

Life doesn't always go the way you wish it would. It goes the way God thinks it should.

Some people have everything. Some people have nothing.

Some people live in mansions way up in the hills, some people lie in trash cans way down in the city.

Some people sit around wondering what to do with their money.

Some people sit around worrying where to get money.

Some people stand around on street corners begging for money to get food so they won't starve.

Some people sit at a table for two at a very expensive Chinese restaurant.

Some people sit about wondering what life is all about.

While some people just don't care.

DR. HAING S. NGOR, A CAMBODIAN
HERO WHOSE SPIRIT AND DEVOTION
LIVE ON

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 1996

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen hero who exemplified the true meaning of courage and devotion: Dr. Haing S. Ngor (1940-96)—whose time, money, fame, and heart were dedicated to serving the people of Cambodia.

The world knows Dr. Ngor for his brilliant acting success. But his Academy Award for his stirring portrayal of photojournalist Dith Pran in "The Killing Fields," was eclipsed by his commitment to his fellow Cambodians, here and in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Ngor escaped from the horrors of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge with a strong sense

of duty toward his fellow Cambodians. He knew it was his responsibility to tell the world of the tragedies that had befallen his country during the war and to support those who had survived. Dr. Ngor made this the focus of his life.

Dr. Ngor's quiet beginnings did not foretell of the worldwide respect he would achieve in later life. He was born in Samrong Young, a small village south of Phnom Penh where his father owned the local lumber mill, and his mother ran a small store. His parents instilled in him the devotion to family, nation, and justice that he carried to his death.

In Cambodia, Dr. Ngor attended medical school and became a physician. Then the horrors of the Pol Pot regime began. Before his escape to Los Angeles, he was to lose his loved ones, including his pregnant wife, and to suffer starvation and mutilation at the hands of the Khmer Rouge.

In Los Angeles, he dedicated himself to the support of the Cambodian people. He raised funds, opened two orphanages in Cambodia, and frequently traveled to his homeland to bring supplies and food to the refugees there. Dr. Ngor lobbied hard to bring Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge to justice in an international tribunal.

An assassin's bullet may have ended Dr. Ngor's life, but it will not kill his spirit. He will remain in our hearts as an inspiration in the fight against oppression and injustice. We will continue Dr. Ngor's fight.

COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. TOWNS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to thank my colleague from Ohio, Mr. LOUIS STOKES for calling this special order today in honor of African-American History Month.

Today, I would like to pay special tribute to our African-American women. These women are our mothers, sisters, and wives. Women who have watched their young children be sold on the auction block and women who even today watch their children be buried or sent away in shackles.

Through all the trials, tribulations and pain that African-American women have gone through, they have always been the backbone of our community. In 1969, Shirley Chisholm

of New York became the first black woman to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. In the arts, Gwendolyn Brooks became the first black to win a Pulitzer. She received the award in 1950 for a collection of poems titled "Annie Allen." In 1955, Marian Anderson became the first black to sing a leading role with Metropolitan Opera in New York City. In the civil rights movement, Rosa Parks, a seamstress and civil rights activist in Montgomery, AL, became a leading symbol of black's bold new action to attain their civil rights. In 1955, she was arrested for disobeying a city law that required blacks to give up their seats when white people wished to sit in their seats or in the same row. Montgomery's blacks protested her arrest by refusing to ride the buses. Their protest lasted 382 days, ending when the city abolished the bus law.

During the Great Depression, most African-Americans felt that Republican President Herbert Hoover, had done little to try to end the Depression. In the elections of 1932, some black voters deserted their traditional loyalty to the Republican Party. They no longer saw it as the party of Abraham Lincoln the emancipator, but of Herbert Hoover and the Depression. In 1936 for the first time, most blacks supported Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Democratic Party candidate for President. This change opened the door for women like, Mary McLeod Bethune, who became an advisor to Roosevelt on the problems of black America. Bethune, founder of Bethune Cookman College, during the Roosevelt administration, directed the Black Affairs Division of a Federal agency called the National Youth Administration.

Brooklyn is very blessed to have the guidance and leadership of many virtuous women. Virtuous women are leaders and organizers, creative and culturally aware of their communities. Women such as, Rev. Evelyn Mann, Rev. Barbara Lucas, and Rev. Barbara Williams-Norman and Rev. Jacqueline McCollough have all supported their families and communities through the work and word of God.

All of these women and many more have contributed to the political, social and spiritual progress of this country.

As we honor African-American women, we honor our heritage and our ancestors who have passed the torch of strength and determination.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting African-American women around the country for their outstanding achievements even under the most difficult circumstances.